AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of detecting biological agents in finished water, comprising the steps of:
   analyzing a sample of finished water suspected of having a targeted biological agent;
   determining the effect said finished water has on the targeted agent;
   selecting at least one first molecular recognition element that ~~identifies~~ specifically binds to the biological agent;
   providing ~~a~~ the selected first molecular recognition element manipulated to target a biological agent in finished water;
   flowing at least one sample suspected of having said biological agent over the first recognition element;
   capturing said biological agent present in the sample ~~with~~ by binding to the first recognition element; and
   ~~emitting~~ detecting a signal indicating the presence of the targeted biological agent in said sample.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further including the step of associating at least one second molecular recognition element to the captured targeted agent,
   wherein said second molecular recognition element is manipulated to target the captured biological agent in finished water.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein either the first recognition element or the second recognition element comprises a label that is capable of causing the emission of ~~said~~ a signal indicating the presence of the targeted biological agent in the sample.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein said label converts an added substrate to provide a product that emits a quantifiable signal.

5. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the signal emission is capable of electrochemical detection.

6. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the signal emission is capable of fluorescence detection.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said first molecular recognition element~~s~~ ~~are~~ is selected from the group consisting of antibodies, nucleic acid probes, molecularly imprinted polymers, natural receptors, and engineered receptors.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 2, further including the step of treating the sample to circumvent interference with a molecular recognition event between said first or second molecular recognition element and the targeted agent.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein treatment of the sample includes adding an additive to the sample selected from the group consisting of a buffering agent, a chelating agent, a reducing agent, metal ions, and combinations thereof.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said method detects biological agents selected from the group consisting of bacteria, fungi, protozoa, rickettsiae, spores, toxins, and viruses.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said first molecular recognition element is associated with a solid phase.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~3~~ 11, wherein said solid phase is non-mobile selected from the group consisting of capillaries, microchannels, cuvettes, beads, fibers, and combinations thereof.

13-22 (withdrawn)